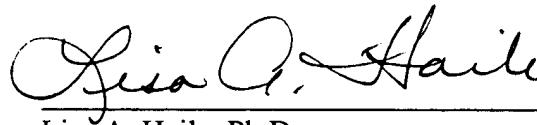


The restriction of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 121 as allegedly being drawn to four distinct inventions is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that each of Groups I-IV are intimately related. For example, the Group II claims (i.e., claims 6-8) are drawn to the very compounds which are contained within the compositions of the Group I claims (i.e., claims 1-5). Thus, a prior art search of based on the compounds of Group II would necessarily involve a search of the Group I claims. Similarly, the Group III claims (i.e., claims 9-11) are drawn to the very chemical libraries included in the compositions of the Group I claims. A prior art search of the Group III claims would also necessarily involve a search of the Group I claims. In addition, the Group III claims are related to the Group IV claims (i.e., claims 12 and 13) as chemical libraries and methods for use thereof. Accordingly, no conservation of patent office resources would be realized if the present restriction is maintained. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants provisionally elect the Group IV claims (i.e., claims 12 and 13, drawn to methods) with traverse. In conjunction with the provisional election of the Group IV claims, Applicants request consideration of new claims 14-24 (drawn to methods for screening molecules employing chemical libraries) with the method claims of Group IV. New claims 14-24 are set forth in the preliminary amendment accompanying this response. For search purposes only, Applicants elect the library species wherein F is sulfonate, R is phenol, L is alkylene, and X is rhodamine. This species reads on claims 12 and 13 as well as new claims 14-17 and 19-24.

In view of the above remarks, favorable action on all claims is respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,



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